

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 7741

Rec'd: NOVEMBER 14, 1958

9:39 A.M.

Info
RMR

FROM: MOSCOW

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1080, NOVEMBER 14, 4 P.M.

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1080, BONN 114, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON
197, PARIS 173

IN MEETING WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS THIS MORNING
RE KHRUSHCHEV'S SPEECH WE AGREED AS FOLLOWS. WE CONSIDER MOST
LIKELY REASON FOR KHRUSHCHEV ACTION WAS CONCERN OVER WEAKENING
INTERNAL SITUATION IN EAST GERMANY TOGETHER WITH STRENGTHENING
PARTICULARLY IN MILITARY FIELD, OF WEST GERMANY. WE DISAGREE
WITH GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S ESTIMATE
THAT MOTIVE WAS KHRUSHCHEV'S DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION
AT 21ST PARTY CONGRESS. WE DO NOT SEE THAT HE HAS NEED FOR
SUCH TACTICS NOR LIKELIHOOD THAT THIS ACTION WOULD IN FACT
STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION. (KROLL AGREES WITH LATTER POINT
BUT THINKS KHRUSHCHEV HAS MISCALCULATED.) WE ARE ALL THREE
BAFFLED BY WHAT KHRUSHCHEV MAY EXPECT TO ACCOMPLISH BY THIS
MANEUVER. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY HAVE SO MISJUDGD
WESTERN REACTION THAT HE THINKS HE CAN GET AWAY WITH IT.
WE ARE MORE INCLINED TO THINK HE HAS SOME SUBSEQUENT STEP
IN MIND AFTER HAVING BUILT UP TENSION TO VERY DANGEROUS
POINT. WE THINK ONE POSSIBILITY MAY BE THAT HE HAS CHANGED
HIS ESTIMATE THAT A SETTLEMENT OF GERMAN PROBLEM COULD BE
PUT OFF INDEFINITELY AND THAT HE IS AIMING AT A SUMMIT MEETING
POSSIBLY WITHOUT AN AGENDA OTHER THAN TO DEAL WITH THREAT
TO PEACE. I SUGGESTED THIS APPROACH MIGHT ENABLE HIM TO
GET AROUND COMMITMENT WHICH HE HAS UNDOUBTEDLY MADE TO EAST
GERMANS NOT TO DISCUSS GERMAN PROBLEM ON FOUR POWER BASIS.

WE WERE GENERALLY AGREED THAT A FIRM WARNING TO SOVIET GOVT
NECESSARY AND THAT THIS SHOULD PROBABLY BE MADE ON A CONFIDENTIAL

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Correction made

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BADLY. EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE PROBLEM WAS
WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED
TO USE FORCE TO MAINTAIN LAND, PARTICULARLY RAIL, COMMUNICATION.
I SAID I DEPLORED TALK OF RESORT ON A PLANT NAME APPEARED
TO ME THAT IF SOVIETS THOUGHT WE WOULD SETTLE ON SUCH A BASIS.
THEY WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PUSH AHEAD. WE WOULD THEN BE
CADDLED WITH AIRLIFT. UNDEFINITELY ANY EAST GERMAN NO ON THEN
BE IN POSITION TO TAKE MEASURES TO WEAKEN OR AT LEAST BRING
STRONG PRESSURE ON WEST BERLIN. UNLESS MY COLLEAGUES WERE
IMPRESSED BY THIS ARGUMENT.

WE ALSO AGREED THAT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO REITERATE OUR
WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS GERMAN QUESTION ON FOUR POWER BASIS.
I SUGGEST THIS OFFER BE MADE PUBLICLY POSSIBLY IN CONNECTION
WITH PUBLICATION GERMAN NOTE. APPEARS TO ME THAT KHRUSHCHEV'S
SPEECH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT GERMAN NOTE BE A
FIRM ONE.

THOMPSON

HEK:DWF-2



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